

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MONROV 00534 211557Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 211524Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8726

S E C R E T MONROVIA 0534

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, UG, LI, US

SUBJECT: AMIN DESIRE FOR REOPENING U.S. EMBASSY IN KAMPALA

REF: (A) STATE 12726, (B) MONROVIA 325, (C) MONROVIA 59

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT TOLBERT THIS MORNING AT HIS REQUEST. HE INFORMED ME THAT HE WOULD BE TRAVELING TO UGANDA THIS COMMING WEEKEND (ETD MORNING JANUARY 24) AND WOULD BE SEEING IDI AMIN. TOLBERT REMINED ME OF AMIN'S REQUEST TO DR. SPAULDING (REF C) AND SAID AMIN UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM MONROVIA JAN 6 HAD ALSO ASKED TOLBERT TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO LET PRESIDENT FORD KNOW THAT AMIN WAS SERIOUS IN HIS DESIRE FOR REOPENING OF AMEMBASSY KAMPALA. TOLBERT SAID HE CALLED ME IN SPECIFICALLY TO TELL ME THIS AND REQUESTED THAT I ASK PRESIDENT FORD WHAT HE (TOLBERT) SHOULD TELL AMIN. TOLBERT SAID HE FEELS HE MUST DEMONSTRATE TO AMIN THAT HE IS RESPONSIVE ON MATTERS IN WHICH AMIN HAS A DEEP INTEREST SO THAT HE CAN PERSUADE AMIN TO BE RESPONSIVE ON MATTERS IN WHICH USG/GOL HAVE A DEEP INTEREST. COMMENT: THE CLEAR AND IMMEDIATE IMPLICAT-ION WAS THE CURRENT ANGOLAN SITUATION END COMMENT.

2. I CONVEYED THE SUBSTANCE OF SUB-PARAS A AND B REF A TO TOLBERT AND SUGGESTED HE COULD CONVEY SUBSTANCE SUB-PARA B TO AMIN. TOLBERT EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OUR POSITION BUT INDICATED HE HOPED HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAY MORE. HE REITERATED HIS REQUEST THAT I CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON. I AGREED TO DO SO.

3. TOLBERT SAID AMIN TOLD HIM THAT A USG PRESENCE IN KAMPALA

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MONROV 00534 211557Z

WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO HIM IN FULFILLING HIS OAU ROLE. TOLBERT

SHARES AMIN'S VIEW BUT WENT FURTHER TO SAY THAT HE BELIEVES THAT AMIN IS MOVING TOWARD A PRO-WEST STANCE AND USG PRESENCE WOULD ASSIST AND MAYBE ACCELERATE THIS MOVEMENT. TOLBERT ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT USG PRESENCE WOULD HELP BRING MODERATION TO KAMPALA SCENE WHICH WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE ANGOLA SITUATION AND FOR ALL OF AFRICA. TOLBERT STATED HIS VIEWS IN A FORCEFUL BUT FRIENDLY WAY. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT USG PRESENCE IN KAMPALA WOULD BE OF "SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE" TO AFRICA DURING THE CURRENT CRISIS.

4. IF I AM TO BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL PRESENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT, I URGE THAT GUIDANCE BE PROVIDED NLT 0800 GMT FRIDAY, JANUARY 23.

5. I USED OCCASION OF PRESIDENT'S SUMMONING ME TO MANSION TO DISCUSS ANGOLA ALONG LINES STATE 10166. REPORT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.
BEAN

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NNN

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